



# SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD, INC

January 2012

[www.franklin-stfb.org](http://www.franklin-stfb.org)

**Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of  
Civil War sites in Williamson County, Tennessee**

## President's Message

Through your support, STFB is working to bring a deeper understanding of the action and troop movements as well as what the soldiers encountered as they struggled on the fields of Franklin, November 30, 1864.

Our recent preservation, in cooperation with the Civil War Trust, of the 5 acre Loring's Advance tract is providing a tremendous opportunity for in-depth study and research into the action in this area of the battlefield, where the Confederates advanced on the Federal line just a few hundred yards away. The area has been called the least researched part of the Franklin Battlefield. However, Loring's Division has more dead buried at the Confederate Cemetery than any of Hood's divisions - including Cleburne's.

We are committed through our preservation efforts to encourage and enable study of the Battle of Franklin as well as other sites and actions in Williamson County. As a result, we seek out open parcels which retain battlefield features while having minimal buildings which would increase purchase cost and maintenance.

Now we need your help to meet our commitment of \$50K for the purchase of Loring's Advance. Your support will enable us to move ahead with our work even as we have our eye on additional parcels which can be preserved. Thank you for your support.

Mike Walker - President

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### **Lorings Advance Tour Planned For February-March TBA**



Sam Huffman and Sam Gant (r) review materials and Lorings Advance terrain in preparation for battlefield tour

Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc is planning a “leaves-off” tour of the Lorings Advance parcel for our membership and general public in late February or early March. The exact date will be announced in the February newsletter and by email once it is set. We did a tour on very short notice in November because we wanted our membership to see this latest purchase, but all of the remaining Saturday dates for 2011 were used.

Since then, much of the weedy undergrowth has been cleared to make the terrain more visible before the trees again leaf out in spring. The 5-acre parcel has been landlocked by surrounding homes for many years and has been viewed by only a few visitors. The weather might be cold for the tour, but we are certain our membership and visitors will be very surprised and pleased when they see this open five acres that has been saved in the middle of the Franklin Battlefield

David Logsdon, author of the renowned “**Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Franklin**” has

offered for STFB to use all of his research materials for that book. This generous offer will add many new details about the men and regiments who crossed this ground, and greatly enhance the story that is developing for this part of the battlefield. The actual tour date will be announced soon. Watch your email.

### **A Gift Remembering Lynn Owens**

Kristi Carter of Livermore, California send a gift and note to STFB saying her friend Lynn Owens, also of Livermore, died last October and had requested that his friends send gifts to STFB in lieu of flowers. Lynn and Linda Owens were long-time STFB members since 1998 and had visited Franklin on at least one occasion – several times, we think. Lynn was a real student of the Civil War and attended many conferences, CWRT events, and reenactments. He and Linda were good, helpful friends to STFB and to the Franklin Battlefield.

### **Fort Granger “Park Day” Saturday March 31, 2012 8AM - 12 Noon**

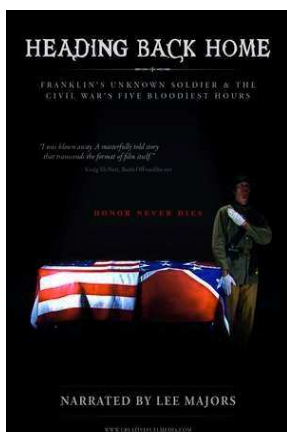
The Civil War Trust has announced its 16th Annual Park Day, a national effort to clean up and raise community awareness of Civil War related historic sites. The City of Franklin Parks Dept has joined with the CWT by encouraging volunteers to help clean up Fort Granger vegetation on Saturday March 31, 2012.

This project is in conjunction with the Franklin’s Battlefield Preservation Commission’s intent to prepare the Park for the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. It is our hope to improve and interpret Fort Granger in a way that encourages a more thoughtful and educational framework, and to bring more awareness to the significance of the Fort’s role in the Battle of Franklin.

To sign up please email [parksinfo@franklintn.gov](mailto:parksinfo@franklintn.gov) to request a simple registration/release form or go to [www.franklintn.gov](http://www.franklintn.gov) to Parks to download a form. Links to the forms are also on the STFB web site. Please bring gloves and pruners and lots of enthusiasm. We will supply water and drinks. For more information please call Deanna at 794-2103.

**Heading Back Home:  
The Story of Franklin’s Unknown Soldier  
DVD Now Available**  
STFB now has a supply of the *Heading Back Home*

DVD that tells the story of Franklin's Unknown Soldier who was found May 2009 at a Columbia Pike construction site and reinterred in Rest Haven Cemetery in October 2010.



Local historians and reenactment footage are expertly used to interweave the story of the Battle of Franklin with the interviews and evaluations by forensic examiners, and funeral planners. The funeral arrangements, funeral ceremony, and grave monument were all planned by volunteers and members of the Battle of Franklin Task Force. As a special touch, a scoop of soil was retrieved from each state that had troops at Franklin and used in the Rest Haven grave. Many Confederate and several Federal soldiers who lived here are also buried in Rest Haven. So, now Franklin's Unknown Soldier, whoever he may be, is at home here in Franklin, under his home soil, with some of his comrades.

The detailed maps, Hollywood-like battle scenes, expert accounts, original music, and narration from legendary actor Lee Majors makes this something very, very special. The film was written, produced and directed by the husband-wife team of Brian Speciale and Jodi Jones-Speciale. The DVD jacket is an example of the vivid colors that are featured throughout the DVD. A great story well told.

## News In Review January 2012

As history goes, 2011 had lots of milestones — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/28/11 — **FRANKLIN** — Franklin Theatre reopens—Berry Farms breaks ground—Mack Hatcher progresses— City Hall sees change—Battlefield effort gains land, money — Gov. Bill Haslam announced the awarding of a \$500,000 grant to help pay for a new road to extend from Lewisburg Pike and into the city's 110-acre battlefield park in Franklin. The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area in the fall was awarded a \$240,000 grant to pay for kiosks at the 110-acre park.

In early December, an anonymous donor pledged \$250,000 to help the Franklin's Charge group buy the Columbia Avenue Domino's Pizza restaurant and adjoining retail space. The Washington, D.C.-based Civil War Trust says it will match that pledge if Franklin's Charge can raise \$500,000 for the project. Separately, a group of five homeowners sold a 5-acre tract of battlefield land known as the Lorings Advance Tract to Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc and the Civil War Trust for \$200,000.

**Purchase Of Pristine Five Acres Will Add Key Piece Of Franklin Battlefield — *Civil War News* — November 2011 — FRANKLIN** — In November, sale of the property closed with Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc, the non-profit organization that has worked for years to raise awareness of battlefield preservation in Franklin. The Civil War Trust and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program are joining Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc to raise the purchase funds. The tract is buffered by residential yards on three sides with a railroad on the other side. During the Nov. 30, 1864, battle, some of the heaviest fighting took place across the grassy tract which is estimated to be about 300 yards from the main Federal lines.

**Civil War soldier's teeth point to ancestry — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/21/11 — FRANKLIN** — Dr. Hugh Berryman, a forensic anthropologist at Middle Tennessee State University, said the man's incisor teeth are shaped like a shovel, which is a genetic trait shared by Asians and Native Americans. The man was probably in his 20s at the time of his death and was 5 feet 10 inches tall. The cause of the man's death and reason for his burial in an unmarked grave away from where the heaviest fighting in the Battle of Franklin occurred during the battle on Nov. 30, 1864, remain the biggest unanswered mysteries, especially since there are no other graves around.

**Franklin's Charge retires note on Cotton Gin Park property — *Williamson Herald*— 12/22/11 — FRANKLIN** — The Carter Cotton Gin Park has come one step closer to reality, as the battlefield preservation organization Franklin's Charge, Inc. has raised through private donations the final \$125,000 required to pay off the mortgage on the parcel known as the Holt Property. A note-burning ceremony was held Thursday, Dec. 22 at Sites & Harbison in Downtown Franklin.

**Grant targets battle hot site — *The Tennessean*, “Williamson A.M.” — 12/15/11 — FRANKLIN** — An anonymous \$250,000 donation to the Civil War Trust for Franklin preservation has created a domino effect of sorts that could eventually generate around \$1 million to purchase property now occupied by a Domino's Pizza restaurant and strip shopping center near the intersection of Cleburne Street and Columbia Avenue. Spurred by the new donation, officials of the Civil War Trust confirm they are committing an additional \$250,000 to buy the land—If nonprofit Franklin's Charge can raise \$500,000 by May 1. Last year, state officials pledged a \$960,000 grant to Franklin's Charge to buy the property. Property owner and developer Donny Cameron is asking \$1.85 million for the buildings and land.

# Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc

PO Box 851  
Franklin, TN 37065-0851

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## January 2012

### Save the Franklin Battlefield Membership / Renewal / Order Form

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	Item	Price	Total
	Annual Membership: Individual \$20 ~ Family \$30 ~ Corporate \$50 (circle one)		
	Donation: <b>Marker Fund ~ Land Purchase</b> (circle one)		
	“Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville” ~ limited & numbered reprint edition, hardcover	\$20.00	
	“ <b>Heading Back Home</b> ” DVD the story of Franklin’s Unknown Soldier Burial	\$25.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Perryville” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
	“Eyewitness to the Battle of Franklin” ~ David Logsdon, paperback 8-1/2 x 11	\$15.00	
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	<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING (Items only) ~ Under \$25.00 - or -</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>	
		<b>\$25.00 and up</b>	<b>\$5.95</b>
	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>		

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc ~ P.O. Box 851 ~ Franklin, TN 37065-0851  
STFB Membership is annual and donations are tax deductible.